

Summer 2015 Recommended Reading List  
Rising Seventh Grade  
2015-2016

Non-Fiction Books

**Atkinson, Rick. *D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy, 1944***

Captures the events and the spirit of that D-Day, June 6, 1944, the day that led to the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.

**Aronson, Marc. *The Griffin and the Dinosaur: How Adrienne Mayor Discovered a Fascinating Link Between Myth and Science***

Traces the research scientist co-author's explorations in Greece and the Gobi Desert for the origins of the mythical griffin, relating the story of the ancient Scythians and the griffins that were said to have guarded their treasure.

**Bell, Cece. *El Deafo***

A memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.

**Castaldo, Nancy F. *Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World***

Discusses how dogs can help people by using their noses to find people or objects.

**Freedman, Russell. *Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain***

Explores the lives and treatment of Asian immigrants detained at Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California, during the early twentieth century. Includes translations of poems carved by detainees into the walls in Chinese script.

**Jenkins, Steve. *Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World***

Profiles a series of animals with unusual eyes, and explains how such animals use their uniquely evolved eyes to gain essential information about the biological world.

**Kyi, Tanya Lloyd. *50 Body Questions: A Book that Spills its Guts***

A collection of facts about the human body.

**Liu-Perkins, Christine. *At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui***

Presents the mysteries of the Mawangdui tombs, one of China's top archaeological finds of the last century, shedding light upon life in China during the Han dynasty.

**Nelson, S.D. *Digging a Hole to Heaven: Coal Miner Boys***

Explores the lives and treatment of Asian immigrants detained at Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California, during the early twentieth century.

**Powell, Patricia Hruby. *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker***

A portrait of the performer and civil rights advocate Josephine Baker.

**Rockwell, Anne. *Hey Charleston!: The True Story of the Jenkins Orphanage Band***

In 1891, Reverend Jenkins opened an orphanage in Charleston, South Carolina. Needing a way to support the children, he asked for donated instruments and started a band.

**Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*** Years before the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez, an eight-year-old girl of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, played an instrumental role in *Mendez v. Westminster*, the landmark desegregation case of 1946 in California.

## Fiction Books

**Averback, Jim. *Jim Averbeck Presents: A Hitch at the Fairmont***

When his aunt is kidnapped, an eleven-year-old boy staying at San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel in 1956 tries to find her, with the help of Alfred Hitchcock.

**Bass, Patrik Henry. *The Zero Degree Zombie Zone***

Bakari Katari Johnson is having a really bad day--class bullies Tariq and Keisha are mad at him, his best friend Wardell has nominated him for hall monitor, a pack of ice zombies from a frozen world are demanding he return the magic ring that Keisha has, and somehow he has to find a way to save the school.

**Booth, Coe. *Kinda Like Brothers***

When his mother takes in a twelve-year-old foster boy, Jarrett is forced to share his room and his friends with the new boy.

**Engle, Margarita. *Mountain Dog***

When his mother is sent to jail in Los Angeles, eleven-year-old Tony goes to live with his forest ranger great-uncle in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where Tony experiences unconditional love for the first time through his friendship with a rescue dog.

**French, Simon. *My Cousin's Keeper***

Kieran wants to fit in at school, but he has a hard time when his weird cousin, Bon, shows up both at school and at home and to make matters worse, Bon becomes friends with the other new kid, a girl named Julia who wears cowboy boots.

**Graff, Lisa. *Absolutely Almost***

Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

**Harris, Teresa. *The Perfect Place***

Treasure Daniels and her younger sister must move in with Great-aunt Grace until their mother sorts herself out, but life in Black Lake, Virginia, where segregation lingers, is hard and Grace is a nightmare--at least on the surface.

**Lord, Cynthia. *Half a Chance***

Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

**Oppel, Kenneth. *The Boundless***

Aboard "The Boundless," the greatest train ever built, on its maiden voyage across Canada, teenager Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *The Red Pencil***

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

**Richmond, Peter. *Always a Catch***

After he joins the new football team, Jack, a new junior and a skilled piano player at a preparatory boarding school, must decide how far he is willing to go to fit in with his new teammates, and how much he is willing to compromise himself to play the kind of music the school expects him to.

**Stroud, Jonathan. *The Screaming Staircase***

Follows three young operatives of a psychic detection agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London.